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Abstract of the paper of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization

The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the United Nations: partnership opportunities for the next millennium

1. Since the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1982, the telecommunication environment has evolved dramatically in terms of technology, policies, regulatory frameworks and market structure. During that time, telecommunication services have changed from being viewed as a utility to being considered an important resource, affecting the development of countries, industries and societies. Changes in telecommunication technology and services have had a profound impact on how people live and work, and even on how Governments are run.
2. The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) has spearheaded the use of advanced technologies in its satellite fleet aimed at improving the use of the frequency spectrum and the geostationary orbit. This has resulted in gains in efficiency, diversified satellite service offerings, increased satellite capacity and reduced satellite utilization charges. INTELSAT has adhered consistently to self-imposed policies and procedures as well as to international recommendations to protect the space environment from the generation and accumulation of space debris.
3. Advances in technology, as well as deregulation, the globalization of economies and services and the inclusion of telecommunication services in international trade have led to a transformation of the satellite industry market structure. Telecommunication monopolies are being eliminated, international organizations are heading towards privatization and the rules of competition are being introduced on a global scale.
4. In parallel with those changes, the INTELSAT system has evolved significantly in terms of increased capacity, advanced service offerings and lower space segment costs. INTELSAT, which actively fulfils its mission of providing advanced telecommunication services to all parts of the world on a non-discriminatory basis, is continuing to address key issues relative to the Organization's future structure, while maintaining its commitment to provide connectivity for lifeline users.
5. INTELSAT has launched numerous initiatives to help achieve the United Nations goal of lessening the information gap around the world. Those activities have included providing technical assistance, network planning, technical training, funding for digital equipment,

collaborating with the activities of the Telecommunications Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union and free use of satellite capacity for humanitarian causes. INTELSAT has also been instrumental in bringing the Internet to the world, and making the World Wide Web truly worldwide. In fact, over 125 countries in the world use INTELSAT for their connection to the Internet backbone. Furthermore, the INTELSAT system is being used on a global basis for disaster relief, environmental monitoring of nuclear testing and other peacekeeping and humanitarian applications.

6. The shift from an industrial to an information-based economy will create a significant challenge for all countries during the next millennium. The INTELSAT global satellite system, with its 35-year record of quality and reliability, is well-positioned to fulfil the communication service requirements of the twenty-first century networked world. The Organization's commitment to provide expanded telecommunications to all areas of the world to contribute to world peace and understanding makes it a strategic partner of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of the information age.
